CAMP WHITE
GRENADE II

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

VOLUME 4, NO. 2 NEWSLETTER OF THE CAMP WHITE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION JUNE 1999

THE GREEN FLU

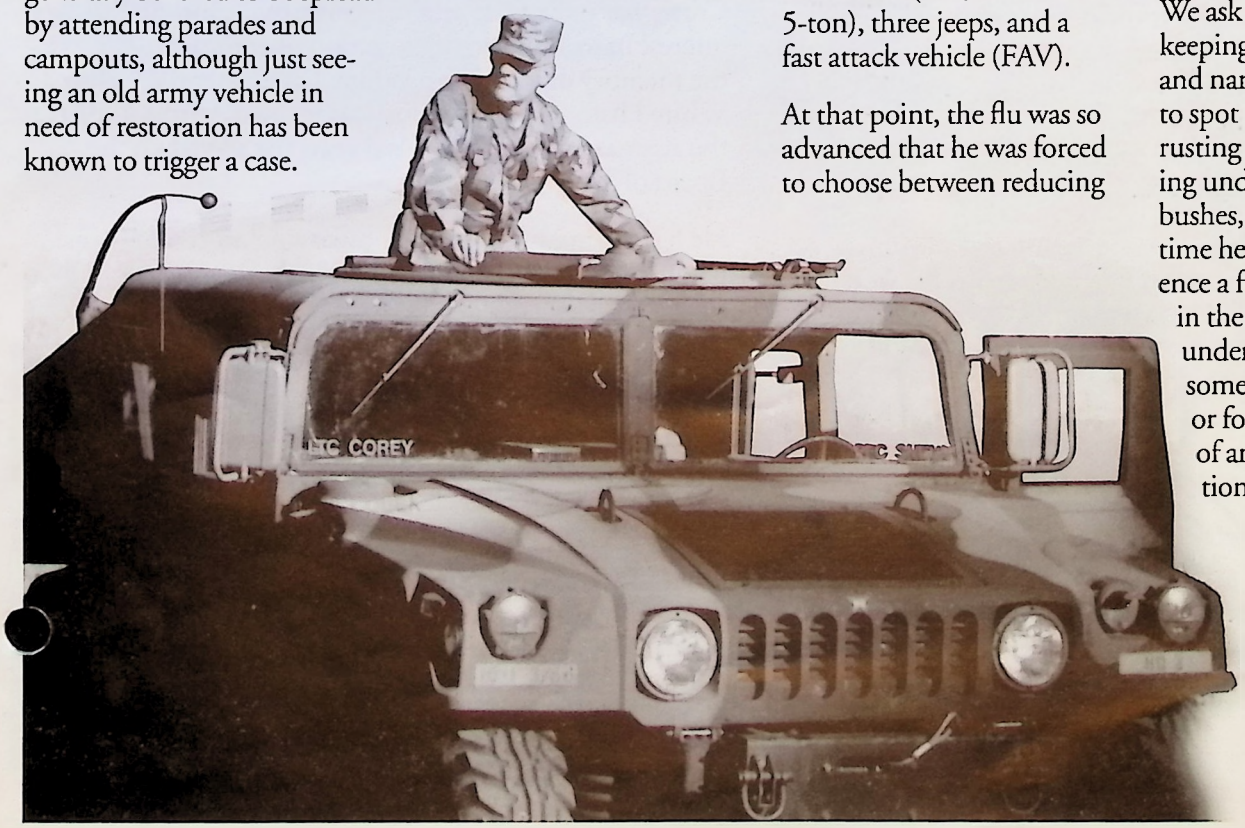
It has been reported that some of our members have "the Green Flu." Although the flu has been reported to be infectious, it is not life-threatening, except for possible actions of a disgruntled spouse. The primary symptom is a driving desire to obtain old military vehicles that are, or have been painted, green, or in some cases tan, or even camouflaged. The flu is generally believed to be spread by attending parades and campouts, although just seeing an old army vehicle in need of restoration has been known to trigger a case.

One of our members, Emmett Ramey, suffers from one of the most serious cases of the Green Flu seen locally. He started with what seemed to be a minor case of the bug, restoring a 1952 Jeep. This first mild phase of the flu lasted almost three years. He had nearly recovered when he sold the Jeep and bought a Humvee.

Humvee acquisition—or even *considering* Humvee acquisiton—is symptomatic of a truly virulent case of the flu, and requires immediate attention. Once obtained, a Humvee can become habit forming and cause considerable financial anguish. In order to alleviate the financial stress, Ramey rented his Humvee to a movie company. In the meantime, he rebuilt two trucks (a 2.5-ton and a 5-ton), three jeeps, and a fast attack vehicle (FAV).

At that point, the flu was so advanced that he was forced to choose between reducing his load of green vehicles or registering at the local soup kitchen. It was a hard decision, but eventually his stomach won out and Ramey sold some of his vehicles. Withdrawal is tough, but he's now a member of Toys Anonymous, and has vowed not to purchase another military vehicle project...unless, of course, it's a really good deal.

We ask your support in keeping him on the straight and narrow. If you happen to spot a military vehicle rusting in a barn or languishing under some blackberry bushes, *don't tell him.* Over time he will probably experience a full recovery, but in the meantime, try to understand if he mumbles something about olive drab or forest green in the midst of an unrelated conversation. Thank you.



Emmett Ramey displays his most severe Green Flu "symptom" to date, a Humvee.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Bill Cope

Dear friends and fellow members:

A big "hello" and a message of good health to all that receive these greetings. First, I would like to wish **President Al Inlow and his wife Swanee** the best, and safe travels as they enjoy a much-needed vacation to parts near and far from their home here in the Rogue Valley.

The month of April brought another annual **Pear Blossom Parade,** and a big whole-hearted "thank you" goes out to the Southern Oregon Military Vehicle Collectors Club, and especially to our own club member, **Emmett Ramey** for providing the means by which our members could participate in such a fine event. Those of us who had the opportunity to help join in the celebration really enjoyed the great company and are looking forward to another parade and the true bond that each club shares with another. Thanks again, guys, for the great times!

Most of you who visit the museum on a regular basis have probably noticed that we have received all of our anxiously awaited display cabinets. New curator **Rick Fritz** and I have been working together on some new displays, which you'll be seeing soon. Also don't forget to visit the Southern Oregon Historical Society and History Center in downtown Medford to see our window display. The exhibits and artifacts displayed there are rotated monthly, with the theme being different each month as well. April featured the U.S. Army; May features the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps; and June will feature the U.S. Air Force and the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs.

Thanks again must be paid to our volunteer staff! You are what makes the museum what it is. You are the first person that a visitor sees and interacts with prior to seeing the displays we have to offer. Keep up the great work, and thank you for all that you do.

Bill Cope

BILL COPE, VICE-PRESIDENT
Camp White Historical Association and Museum

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Curtis L. Tessman

Let me give you a brief background on Curtis Tessman, our friend and a member of your Board of Trustees. Curtis was born in Mattoon, Illinois, on September 4, 1922. At the age of 19 he moved to Ruch, Oregon, for a short ten months, then on to Richmond, California, where he worked in the shipyards until drafted into the army. He was inducted at the Presidio of San Francisco on December 17, 1942. He was sent to Boise Barracks, Boise Idaho, for basic training, and assigned to Camp Abbot (Sun River), Oregon, Motor Pool, Supply, and Service Command Unit 1973, Engineer Replacement Center. Curtis qualified as a driver on all vehicles, including those for command personnel. He was discharged from the service September 23, 1943.

In civilian life he worked in construction from 1943 to 1949. From 1951 to 1975 he worked for Medford Corporation(MEDCO) as a lead sawyer in the mill. After retiring from MEDCO he worked another 9 years for School District 6, retiring again in 1984. In September of 1974 he married June Young in Reno, Nevada. Together he and June enjoy a beautiful garden at their home on Freeman Road, Central Point, Oregon. Each May they look forward to hunting mushrooms at a secret location that they would not share with this interviewer!

Curtis was one of the original group that expressed an interest in forming an organization to commemorate the memory of old Camp White. Later, after the Camp White Historical Association was formed, Curtis joined the Association and for several years has served on the Board of Trustees.

He has distinguished himself by having missed only one meeting in these many years, and by his loyal dedication to the preservation of Camp White 1942-1946.

THE GRENADE II

The *Grenade II* is the official newsletter of the Camp White Historical Association and Museum.

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The Grenade *accepts suggestions and contributions from readers. If you have a story idea or appropriate event to promote, write Carolyn Sharrock at P.O. Box 2373, White City, OR 97503.*

HISTORY ON DISPLAY:

COLONEL CARROLL M. FYFFE

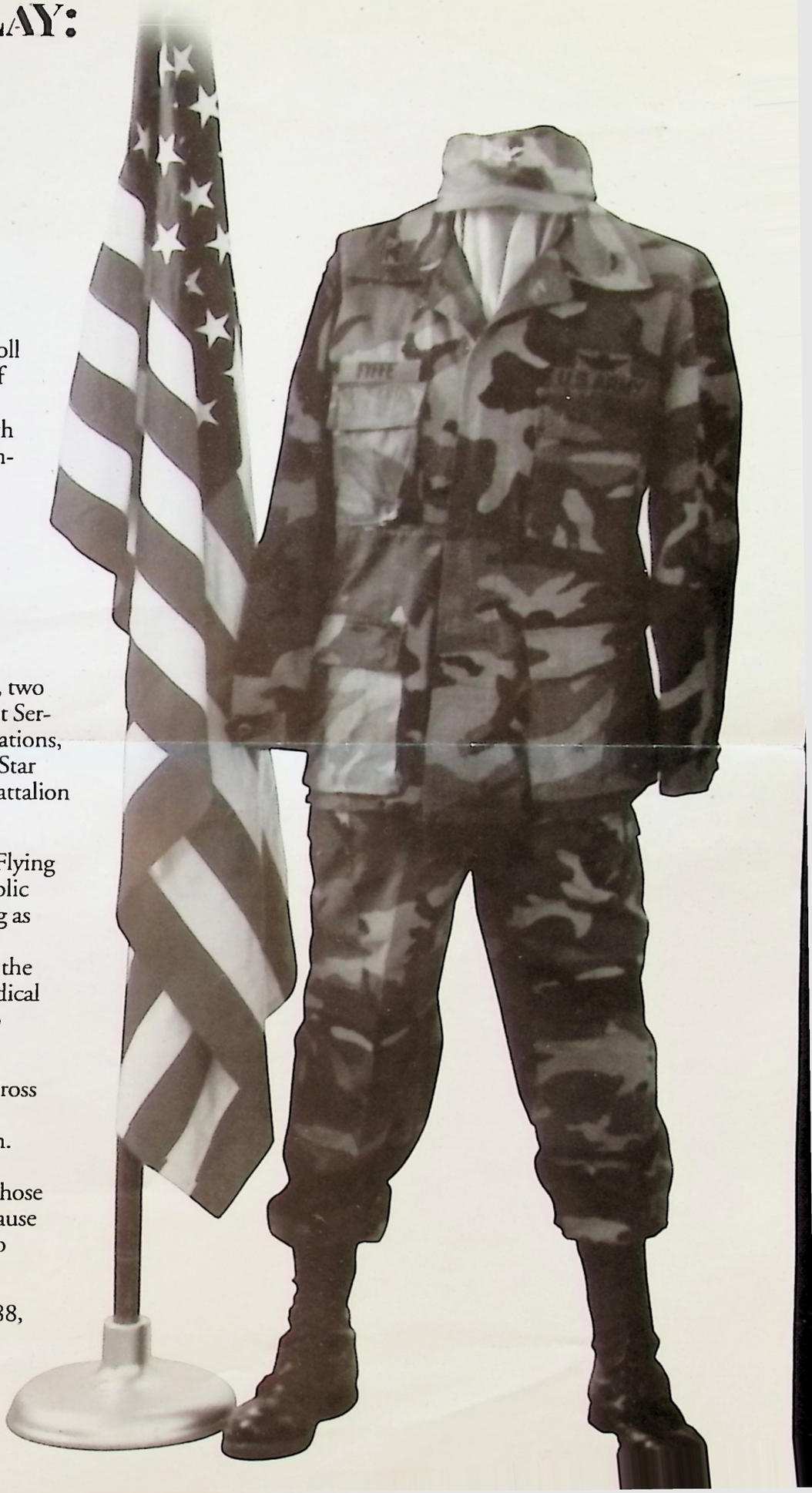
This uniform was worn by Colonel Carroll M. Fyffe, past National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Colonel Fyffe was born in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and graduated from Eastern Kentucky State College, Richmond, Kentucky, with a Bachelor's degree in Geography and Geology.

He entered the U.S. Army in June of 1958 as a ROTC distinguished graduate. His military career spans three decades and includes the following awards: Three legions of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, seventeen Air Medals, two Joint Service Commendations, three Army Commendations, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star and Unit Citations with the 227th Aviation Battalion and 1st Cavalry Division.

Colonel Fyffe received his first Distinguished Flying Cross on 22 June 1968 for action in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 February 1968. While serving as a pilot on an armed helicopter during a rescue mission, the Colonel flew at low altitudes over the enemy to shield and draw fire away from a medical evacuation helicopter which was attempting to extract wounded personnel.

He received his second Distinguished Flying Cross on 5 July 1968, for action which occurred on April 1968, again in the Republic of Vietnam. The Colonel, then a Major, placed his aircraft between the enemy and a downed helicopter whose crew would have otherwise been captured. Because Major Fyffe's action his aircraft was subject to hostile enemy fire.

The Colonel retired from the U.S. Army in 1988, having served for more than 30 years.



MEN "INVADE" SMALL OREGON TOWN

– from *Forth*, February 1943. *Courtesy of the Southern Oregon Historical Society Research Library*

The north, the east and the south have moved west to the city of Medford in southern Oregon—home of the famous Comice winter pears. Out here to this small isolated community, located eighty miles inland from the Pacific Coast and midway between Portland and San Francisco, have come nearly 10,000 soldiers who will be housed at newly-completed Camp White, about five miles distant. Several more thousand men are at the airport which is located at the city limits.

The town is overwhelmed by this influx which has jumped its normal population of 11,000 by forty per cent. Most of the new inhabitants who are now choking traffic on the few main streets are the wives and children of the officers and enlisted men from Camp White and airport.

These thousands of men, away from home, many of them for the first time in their lives, want some place to go and something to do in their spare time. To meet this need St. Mark's Church, (which boasts 300 communicants) with the help of the Army and Navy Commission, is being enlarged to increase its seating capacity from 125 to 200. And a recreation hall with basement, an office and rest rooms are being built onto the church.

This project will be a seven-day-a-week program designed to meet the needs of both the servicemen and their families. And the need is an urgent one, as it is in every community which finds its normal leisurely life suddenly put at sixes and sevens by the influx of hordes of servicemen who can find no adequate recreational facilities within its limits. Because of the serious problems liable to arise from these conditions, a curfew is being established for the first time in the history of this quiet town.

"St. Mark's in its recreational and worship program is planning to aid in this problem by positive rather than negative means," says the Rev. Herald G. Gardner, rector. A large percentage of the officer personnel, he reports, are communicants of the Episcopal Church and are from many scattered parishes in the United Stat most of them being from the south.

St. Mark's is the only parish (with the exception of one small mission) in a county of 2,700 square miles and 35,000 population. Its nearest parish neighbor in the diocese is 286 miles distant. For the last few months parishioners have been holding dances, teas and picnics for the ever increasing stream of men, and one parishioner recently entertained 225 soldiers at her home. St. Mark's also is finding places in its choir, Church school staff and in other organizations for the dozens of Churchmen who are moving into Medford.

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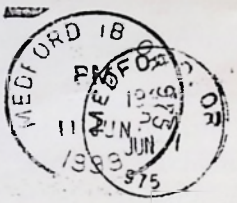

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